

New Group Asked to Buy Yankees; 'Still Interested,' Farley Says

New developments in the projected sale of the New York Yankees came to light yesterday with the disclosure that a Wall Street investment firm had addressed letters to a few prominent men in business and private life over the week-end inviting them to become members of a syndicate to buy and direct the baseball team.

This action was interpreted as an indication that the purchase of the Yankees and its affiliated teams by former Postmaster General James A. Farley, confirmed officially on July 17, has fallen through.

Mr. Farley declared last night, however, when the matter of the proposed syndicate was brought to his attention, that he had not heard of such a plan and said he was still interested in the purchase of the Yankees.

The invitation to join a new syndicate to buy the club was made by the investment house of F. B. Eyre & Co., 1 Wall Street.

A group composed of William Murty, business associate of Eyre & Co.; Thurlow Purdy, a financial counselor; Helen K. Patterson and H. N. Eyre was formed several months ago with the approval of the executors of the Ruppert estate for the purpose of selling the New York Yankees. It was said yesterday that the indecision on the part

of Mr. Farley to consummate the Yankee deal prompted the group to send out the new invitation.

Whether the reputed failure of the Farley purchase plan was due to inability of his backers to raise sufficient funds to clinch the deal or to a flagging of their interest upon the news of his election as chairman of the board of directors of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation on Sept. 1, which was announced on Aug. 10, could not be ascertained.

In any event, it was learned from a trustee of the Ruppert estate, which holds the controlling interest in the Yankee baseball club, that the door has not been closed to a Farley purchase on the terms originally proffered, and also that somewhat more favorable terms have been made for the new syndicate now in process of formation.

While the task of forming this syndicate has been undertaken by a Wall Street house, it does not mean that there will be any general offering of securities or that anyone with sufficient money can step in and buy a greater or lesser interest in the Yankees.

The letters have gone out to a few individuals in a highly selective list, first with a view to constitut-

Continued on Page Twenty

NEW GROUP ASKED TO BUY YANKEES

Continued From Page One

ing a sort of partnership in which all the members are known and congenial to each other, and, second, in view of American League rules prohibiting the underwriting and distribution of shares in its baseball clubs.

Henry Norman Eyre is sole proprietor of F. B. Eyre & Co., formed by his father a quarter century ago. The firm specializes in tax-exempt securities, principally municipal bonds. Mr. Eyre was a flier with the R. A. F. during the World War, and became a partner in his father's firm soon after it ended.

With a wide acquaintanceship in Wall Street and elsewhere, Mr. Eyre is the only independent person authorized to form a syndicate to own the Yankees, as distinguished from the trustees themselves and the various legal interests identified with the Ruppert estate.

Action Likely Soon

No time limit has been set on Mr. Eyre's action in this instance, but from the nature of the proposed

transaction it is expected that it will reach a fairly rapid conclusion. The invitation to join the syndicate is couched in the broadest terms, and, in effect, the proposal is on a "terms later" basis. The likely outcome will be that the future partners will meet around a table to discuss the form and amount of their respective commitments.

According to a trustee for the estate, the over-all price for the properties owned by the estate is \$4,000,000 net. This covers the Newark, Kansas City and New York real properties, the club franchises, and the contracts of players, managers and others. It does not include any claims, intangibles, cash and other working assets of the corporation, transfers of which will be subject to negotiation.

It was further learned that Mr. Farley's position always had been that, if any one offered a better deal, he would step aside, and it is indicated that under the present circumstances either Mr. Farley's group or any other responsible association desirous of purchasing the Yankees will have a clear way if they care to bid against the Eyre group.

Executors of the estate are Byron Clark Jr., George Ruppert, brother of the late Colonel Jacob Ruppert, and H. Garrison Silleck.

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